

September 2000

Inside this Issue

1 Prevalence of lead poisoning in RI minorities

1 The RI Lead Screening requirement

2 Lead screening rates found to be higher than estimated

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program Contacts

Division of Family Health

Peter Simon, MD

Medical Director

Magaly Angeloni, BS

Program Manager

Ana Novais-Pittman, MA

Outreach/Education Coordinator

Pat Raymond, RN

Providers' Liaison

Occupational Health

Environmental Lead Program

Marie Stoeckel, CIH - Chief

Al Cabral, MS - Principal Industrial Hygienist

Sue Feeley, MPH - Epidemiologist

Environmental Health Risk Assessment

Bob Vanderslice, PhD - Chief

Laboratories:

Jim Sullivan, PhD - Chemistry Branch

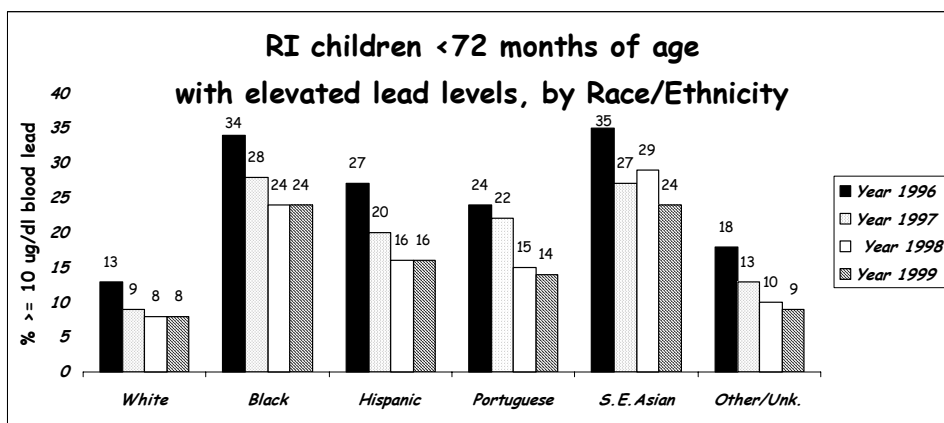
Helen McCarthy, PhD - Environmental

Rhode Island Department of Health
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention
Program

3 Capitol Hill, Room 302
Providence, RI 02908-5097

Lead Update

Prevalence of lead poisoning in RI minorities



Elevated lead levels are less common in all these racial/ethnic groups than they were in 1996, but there is still great variation among the groups. The proportion of children with elevated lead levels is much higher in racial/ethnic minority groups.

The RI lead screening requirement.

Thanks to our readers for their questions regarding lead screening. In fact, Rhode Island's Law states that every child under 6 years of age should be screened for lead poisoning every year. However, children with history of elevated lead levels, children known to be exposed to a non-safe lead environment and children with developmental concerns do need to be screened more often than yearly and be under a physician's care.

Conversely, for children who are beyond 36 months of age and have a history of all acceptable lead levels, which is confirmed at their first lead test after 36 months of age and also are removed from a lead hazardous environment, the annual screening requirement can be discontinued. Yearly lead screenings should be resumed, however, if the child's environment is known or reported to be not lead safe. The RI Lead Program Screening Guidelines are available at www.healthri.org/family/lead/leadhome.htm. For additional questions contact peters@doh.state.ri.us or magalya.doh.state.ri.us.

www.health.state.ri.us

1-800-942-7434

MAKE HEART PART OF YOUR FAMILY

Lead Screening Rate in Rhode Island: higher than estimated

A thank you note to providers linked to KIDSNET

Thanks to the diligent work of many pediatric offices linked to KIDSNET, the Department of Health is engaged in additional quality assurance reviews that suggest a higher lead screening rate for children 15 months and older than first calculated. Reports that list children by 15 months of age who appeared to be unscreened for lead poisoning were recently generated and sent to primary care providers linked to KIDSNET, Rhode Island's pediatric public health tracking system. Reports were sent in an effort to assist providers in streamlining follow up procedures to screen children at around the first year of age. The response from pediatric practices was overwhelming. Unmatched data was immediately resolved, as name spellings and/or dates of birth were corrected, many records were updated (patients no longer with the provider), and some more were added to KIDSNET. Additionally, unreported lead test results from laboratories were identified and are now part of (Stellar) the Lead program's database, which transfers records to KIDSNET.

All this could only be accomplished through the joint effort from providers' practices in collaboration with the Health Department. As a result of this partnership, it was confirmed that many more children were in fact lead screened than were first identified. Our mission of lead screening is not complete, however. While some practices showed an excellent record of screening, others had a significant proportion of patients lacking a lead screening result. To some extent, the lack of a screening result can be attributed to the absence of a laboratory on site and the difficulties encountered by parents to make a second trip to access a laboratory out of the doctor's office.

Staff from both, the KIDSNET and the Lead Poisoning Prevention programs thank all providers involved and will continue to work on data quality reviews to assure all children are lead screened in a timely manner. If additional information on this topic is needed, contact Magaly Angeloni, in the Lead Program, 222-4602, magalya@doh.state.ri.us or Kim Salisbury-Keith, in the KIDSNET program, 222-5925, kims@doh.state.ri.us.

~~~~~

## Beware of Paint Industry "Educational" Materials

Recently the Alliance to End Childhood Lead Poisoning alerted us about the release from the National Paint and Coatings Association (NPCA) of a publication called "Preventing Childhood Lead Exposure: A Guide to Online and Offline Resources and Information About Lead Paint". These materials are vague, misdirected, and short on practical advice to help consumers. The Rhode Island Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program wants to join the Alliance in this alert and urges all state agencies, community-based organizations, child care providers, hardware stores and other retail outlets, to rely on other educational materials that provide specific, practical tips for dealing with lead-based paint. In order to receive a copy of the order form for educational materials provided through our program call the **Family Health Information Line at 1-800-942-7434**. If you want to receive a copy of the Alliance alert about NPCA's educational materials contact Ana Novais, the Education and Outreach Coordinator, at 222-5943 or by e-mail, [anap@doh.state.ri.us](mailto:anap@doh.state.ri.us).

---

[www.health.state.ri.us](http://www.health.state.ri.us)

1-800-942-7434

MAKE HEART PART OF YOUR FAMILY